



RI Club No. 16149

Date of Charter : August 24, 1964

Official Buletin of Rotary Club of Behala : RI District 3291

R.I. President : Rtn. Ron D Burton

District Governor : Rtn. Rajani Mukerji

President : Rtn. Anjan Kumar Bhowmick

Secretary : Rtn. Jayanta Kumar Mitra

Editor : Rtn. Dr. Siddhartha Chakraborty

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## APRIL IS MAGAZINE MONTH

### TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1680 - Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, great Maratha emperor, patriot, soldier, freedom fighter, revolutionary and great son of India, passed away at Raigarh fort.
- 1910 - Highest mountain in North America, Alaska's Mt McKinley climbed
- 1914 - Sam Hormuj Framji Jamshedji Manekshaw, India's first Field Marshal, was born. He was better known as "Sam Manekshaw"
- 1922 - Stalin appointed General Secretary of Communist Party
- 1926 - 2nd flight of a liquid-fueled rocket by Robert Goddard
- 1926 - Italy establishes corp of force in order to break powerful unions
- 1933 - 1st airplane flight over Mt Everest
- 1965 - 1st atomic powered spacecraft (snap) launched
- 1973 - The first portable cell phone call is made in New York City, United States.
- 1975 - Bobby Fischer stripped of world chess title for refusing to defend
- 1984 - Soyuz T-11 carries 3 cosmonauts (including one Indian- Sqn Ldr Rakesh Sharma) to Salyut 7
- 1999 - India's INSAT-2E multipurpose telecommunications satellite is successfully launched from the Kourou space station in French Guyana.
- 2012 - US President Barack Obama officially secures Democratic presidential nomination
- 2014 - The 2362nd RWM of RC Behala at regular venue & time.

### UPDATE YOUR DIARY

- 5th April, '14 : District Talent Search at Rotary Sadan
- 10th April, '14 : The 2363rd RWM of RC Behala at regular venue & time.
- 19th April, '14 : District Leadership Seminar at Rotary Sadan at 3 pm.  
Chief Guest : RI Director Rtn PT Prabhakar
- 26th April, '14 : Nababarsha at Royal Bengal Hall
- 27th April, '14 : Official visit by District Governor

**"Southeast Asia is declared polio-free.  
Nearly 80% of the world now  
lives in polio-free countries.**



The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) today will declare the South-East Asia region of the World Health Organization as polio-free, an important milestone in the worldwide effort to eradicate polio. The 11 countries in the

region Bangladesh, Bhutan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Timor-Leste are home to 1.8 billion people and represent the fourth of six regions worldwide to be officially certified polio-free.

This landmark didn't just happen on its own, but embodies a lot of hard work by many dedicated volunteers.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

6th April : Ann Chaitali, W/o Rtn.-Sudipta Ghosh

9th April : Vishal, S/o PP Rtn. Swapan Kr. Marwaha

Wish you many happy returns of the day

Rtn Partha Pratim (Bumba) Ghoshal has cordially invited all our members and their spouses at a reception on the occasion of Holy Sacred Thread ceremony of his son Hritam on 6th April 2014 (Sunday) from 7 pm onwards at Panchaparban, Panchasayar, Kolkata-700 094 (Opp. Big Bazar, Hiland Park, EM Bypass)

We meet every Thursday at 6 PM at M.P. Birla Planetarium Auditorium - Visit us at [www.rotarybehala.org](http://www.rotarybehala.org)

# The Secret To Polio Eradication In India

Devin Thorpe

[Contd.....]

[The Editor stumbled upon this article by Devin Thorpe in Forbes online on 15.03.14, courtesy eFlash\_Rotary.com. As this covers many aspects of our fight against Polio, the entire article will be serialized in Maitree. - Ed.]

## Polio's Impact :

Since Rotary launched its effort to eradicate polio in 1985, approximately 10 million cases of polio have been prevented. For many in the developed world, however, that is a statistic without much meaning. Few people younger than 50 even know of anyone personally who was afflicted with polio-related paralysis.

During my visit to Delhi, I visited St. Stephen's Hospital, which operates the only dedicated polio ward in India. The program is led by Dr. Mathew Varghese, who gave us a tour of the ward.



Dr. Mathew Varghese with one of his patients in the cancer ward

treatment, able to stand and walk with a walker. Dr. Varghese accepts every patient who comes to him, regardless of ability to pay. Over the last decade, he boasts enthusiastically, that his patients are getting older and older. Virtually all of his patients are now over 15. He performs surgeries that allow children who crawl, to stand and walk in braces or calipers. Some children have had paralysis on only one leg. One outcome is that the affected leg is shorter than the other leg. Dr. Varghese provides surgery to lengthen the leg one millimeter per day. This allows patients to get out of orthopedic shoes and sometimes to eliminate the need for crutches or even a cane. The ward is financially supported by Rotary.

## The History of Rotary's Fight to End Polio :

One of the highlights of my visit to India, was a meeting with Raja Saboo, who at the age of 80 interrupted his planning for a humanitarian mission to Rwanda, to visit with me.

Saboo served as the President of Rotary International in 1991-92; he joined Rotary in 1961. As a young man, he met Mahatma Gandhi and as an adult met Mother Teresa several times. In 1992, he visited South Africa in his official capacity as the President of Rotary International. He was surprised to be invited to meet with President F. W. de Klerk. After a brief introduction, the South African President invited Saboo to stand with him at a press conference where he announced the end to apartheid. Saboo, who served on the Rotary International Board beginning before the decision to make polio Rotary's global effort, was able to provide a historical perspective.



Raja Saboo, former President of Rotary International

Individual Rotary clubs were engaging in the fight against polio by the late 1970s, but this work was all being done at the club level and not at the international level.

Sir Clem Renouf of Australia served as the president of Rotary in 1978 and 1979 was

Polio frequently paralyzes the lower limbs and most often impacts those with little economic means, leaving them in the humiliating position of being forced to crawl. The kids who grow up crawling end up with permanent deformities. The following video shows one of Dr. Varghese's patients crawling before treatment.

The following image shows the same patient following successful



the first to identify polio as a potential large scale project for Rotary. In 1981, Rotary decided approve a proposal to "immunize the children of the world against polio by 2005, when Rotary would be celebrating its 100 years. In 1988, the goal was rephrased as the eradication of polio, a difference that may be viewed as symbolic, but was actually a significant leap. No longer would success be judged by Rotary's effort, but by the outcome.

When Rotary first estimated the cost of the program, Saboo said, the organization estimated the cost would be \$25 million. They quickly realized that the cost would be much higher, estimating that it would be at least \$120 million. In 1988, Rotary International raised \$240 million to kick off the effort in earnest.

More than \$10 billion has been spent to date to end polio with a budget of approximately \$5 billion pending for the "Endgame Strategic Plan."

Saboo played a key role in managing one of the biggest challenges of the immunization campaign. Some people in the Muslim community were especially resistant to efforts to immunize their children. Saboo visited a community where five families were specifically identified who were refusing to have their children vaccinated. During the visit, Saboo noticed a small child crawling on the ground in a classic polio afflicted way. He recognized that the child needed polio corrective surgery. He organized an effort to have this child and other children in the area receive the needed surgeries. This helped to soften the resistance to immunizations.



## Public Relations :

In India, managing the challenge of public relations is the primary responsibility of UNICEF. During my visit, I sat down with Nicole Deutsch, Chief of Polio with the UNICEF India Country Office.

Concluded

## MINUTES OF THE 2361<sup>ST</sup> REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING OF ROTARY CLUB OF BEHALA HELD ON 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2014 AT MP BIRLA PLANETARIUM AUDITORIUM, KOLKATA AT 6.30 PM

- ❖ Club President Rtn Anjan Kumar Bhowmick called the meeting to order.
- ❖ Meeting started with National Anthem.
- ❖ Club President Rtn Anjan welcomed all Club members to the Meeting.
- ❖ He informed members about our recent activities and upcoming events of the Club and the District, including :
  - 29th March, 2014 : District Holi Meet at Swabhumi from 6.30 pm. Regn. Rs. 600/- per head
  - 5th April, 2014 : District Talent Search at Rotary Sadan
  - 19th April, 2014 : District Leadership Seminar at Rotary Sadan at 3 pm. Chief Guest : RI Director Rtn PT Prabhakar
  - 26th April, 2014 : Nababarsha at Royal Bengal Hall
  - The official visit by DG will be on 27th April
- ❖ Members assembled discussed the different aspects of functioning of the Club.
- ❖ On permission from the chair, Rtn Partha Pratim Ghoshal invited all members and their Anne to the reception to be held on the occasion of "Paite" of his son on 6th April (Sunday) evening.
- ❖ Club Secretary Rtn Jayanta Kr. Mitra conducted usual Club business.
- ❖ After confirming the minutes of 2360nd RWM of RC Behala as published in Maitree dt 20.03.2014 and declaring the attendance, Club President Rtn. Anjan terminated the meeting.
- ❖ Attendance statistics – Members : 45, Members present : 08.